



VILLAGE OF MAPLE BLUFF

neighborhood news

December 2023



Calendar of Events

December

- 4 Parks and Recreation
- 12 Building Board
- 12 Village Board
- 14 Municipal Court
- 25 Admin and Public Works Closed
- 26 January Building Board Materials Due

January 2024

- 1 Admin and Public Works Closed
- 9 Building Board
- 9 Village Caucus
- 9 Village Board
- 30 February Building Board Materials Due
- 31 1st Installment of Property Taxes Due
- 31 2023 Key Fob Program End

Village Board

President Kevin O'Driscoll
kodriscoll@villageofmaplebluff.com

Trustee Lindsay Campbell
lcampbell@villageofmaplebluff.com

Trustee Kristine Jaeger
kjaeger@villageofmaplebluff.com

Trustee Ellen Reyerson
ereyerson@villageofmaplebluff.com

Trustee Ben Schmidt
bschmidt@villageofmaplebluff.com

Trustee Jim Schuler
jschuler@villageofmaplebluff.com

Trustee Mike Wittenwyler
mwittenwyler@villageofmaplebluff.com

Trash/Recycling

December						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

JANUARY '24							FEBRUARY '24						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29		



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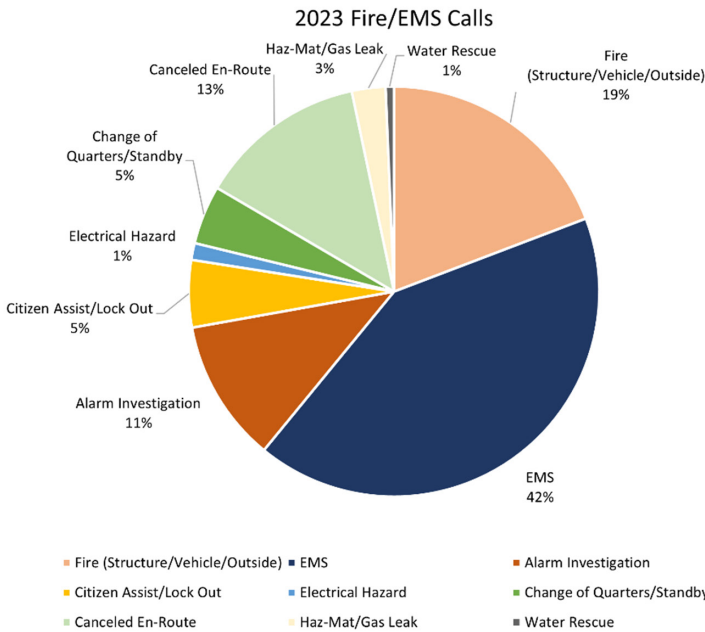
Fire Rescue Department By Kristopher Loy, Fire Chief



Response Information:

The Maple Bluff Fire Rescue Department (MBFD) has responded to a total of 151 calls for service in 2023. The MBFD's new ambulance has responded to 53 emergency medical calls resulting in 29 patients being transported to

area hospitals. Our crews have an average response time within the Village of 3 minutes 53 seconds (dispatch to arrival on scene).



Madison Marathon:

On Sunday, November 12, 2023, a portion of the Madison Marathon passed through the Village of Maple Bluff. Our police and fire departments were on standby throughout the event to help provide a safe environment for the nearly 2,000 participants. Great job everyone!



Scholarships:

On October 31st, Madison College awarded scholarships to all three of our first-year student interns. Each were participants in the Madison College NextGen Responders Academy who transitioned into degree programming in Fire or EMS after graduating high school. Congratulations Braxton, Natalie, and Carley!



Winter Holiday Safety

Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk of fire. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.



Holiday decorating

- Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Keep decorations away from windows and doors.



Holiday entertaining

Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.

- Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.
- Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.



Before Heading Out or to Bed

Blow out lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed. **Turn off** all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

FACTS

- ❗ More than **one-third** of home decoration fires are started by candles.
- ❗ More than **two of every five** decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.



**NATIONAL FIRE
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DOG AND CAT LICENSING

The Village of Maple Bluff requires licensing of all dogs and cats kept within the village per Ordinance §82-3. Licenses will be valid for the 2024 calendar year. Licenses can be purchased online under the Parks and Recreation page, or you may complete the form that will be included in your property tax bill packet. The license cost for dogs is \$30.00. The cost for cats is \$20.00. You will also need to provide a copy of your pet's current rabies vaccination, with expiration date. A license will not be issued if proof of rabies vaccination has not been provided to the village.

PROPERTY TAX BILL INFORMATION

December 18th, 2023 is the statutory deadline for property tax bills to be mailed. If you have not received your property tax bill by December 23rd, please call the Village Center at 608-244-3048. Payments can be mailed to 18 Oxford Place, Madison, WI 53704 or dropped off at the Village Center by utilizing the payment box in the front entry. If you would like a receipt, please include an email address or self-addressed envelope. Office hours are Monday - Thursday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm and Fridays 8:00am - 12:00pm. First installment payments are due no later than January 31, 2024 to the Village of Maple Bluff to avoid interest and penalties. Second installments are due to Dane County by July 31, 2024. If you want to include your property tax payment on your 2023 income taxes, payment needs to be made on or before December 31, 2023. Please include the bottom portion of your tax bill when making payment.

EMPLOYEE GIFT GIVING POLICY

The Village of Maple Bluff has an established policy regarding the acceptance of gifts by village employees. Over the years, village residents have been generous during the holidays in expressing their thanks for the hard work of our employees throughout the year. Considering potential liabilities stemming from the acceptance of certain types of gifts, restrictions are placed on what gifts employees may accept. The policy directly prohibits any village employee from individually accepting alcoholic beverages and/or receiving monetary gifts from village residents. After the holiday season, a party is held for all village employees in appreciation of their hard work. Residents who wish to contribute to the village employee holiday party are asked to direct their gifts to the Clerk/Treasurer to ensure that the gifts can be shared equally by all employees. A sincere Thank You to those who have contributed to date. Employees of the Village of Maple Bluff take pride in their work and thank residents for their cooperation and support throughout the year.

Veterans Memorial



It is hard to believe that more than four years have passed since the Maple Bluff Veterans Memorial was dedicated on July 4th, 2019. A committee of dedicated residents designed the monument, selected the site in Johnson Park and raised the funds for its' construction. Upon completion of the construction and dedication the memorial was officially turned over to the village. However, the committee members, Rick Apfel, Julie Cornelius, Curt Erickson, John Schmid, Sandra Thomas, and Ellis Waller have continued to decorate the memorial for Memorial Day, July 4th, Veterans Day, and Christmas each year since it was dedicated.

In November the committee transferred the honor of decorating the memorial to Maple Bluff's - Troop 5. The troop will continue the tradition of decorating the memorial on the four holidays. Scoutmaster, Wesley Gill commented, *"this new responsibility for the troop will be an excellent addition to the troop's patriotic and citizenship programs."*

The memorial is dedicated to those members of the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marines who have lived in the Village of Maple Bluff before, during, or after their active duty or reserve service. Those who have served in the past or are currently serving are eligible to be listed on the memorial. If you have served in the armed forces or know of a village resident who has they can be included on the memorial. Contact Curt Erickson at the Village Hall for further information.

Names are usually added in the summer.

The Veterans Memorial Committee would like to thank all village residents who have served in the armed forces and those who have contributed to the memorial that recognizes their sacrifice.

Attention Maple Bluff Veterans

If you are a Veteran and your name is not included on the Memorial Wall, please contact Curt Erickson at: cerickson@villageofmaplebluff.com. Please include your service information.

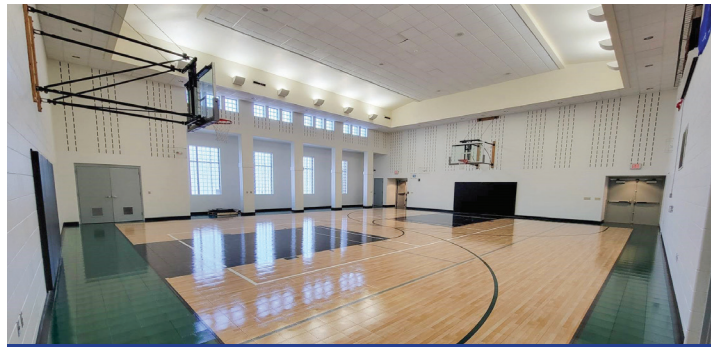
Donations

If you would like to make a financial contribution to the continued maintenance of the memorial, please contact Curt Erickson.

Parks and Recreation

By: Curt Erickson, Recreation Director/Deputy Treasurer

As we embark on the last month of 2023, I would be remiss to not thank all those that have participated in programming, attended village events, volunteered countless hours, and donated to the Parks and Recreation Department. This community is truly a special place and I have been fortunate to work with and for all of you for the past 15 years. Make sure you take time with family and friends during this holiday season. Check on your neighbors and lend a helping hand if they need assistance or are alone.



Gym Use

1. Access to Open Gym is granted through the Village's key fob program.
2. Key fob members may bring up to 3 non-key fob members per use.
3. Members that wish to bring more than 3 guests must reserve the gym online at a minimum of 24 hours in advance. No day of reservations are permitted.
4. **No food or beverages are allowed inside the gym, excluding water in an enclosed container.**
5. Put all equipment away and notify Village staff of any problems or broken equipment.

Hours: Open Gym will vary depending on the day of the week, programming, and rentals. The gym will close daily at **9:00pm**. To check availability, visit the Village's website and select the Parks and Recreation tab, you will find the Parks and Recreation Calendar on this page. If no events are listed, the gym would be available for Open Play.

Toddler Open Gym

Weekdays
Time: 8:00a - 11:00a
Fee: Must be members of the key fob program

Toddler Open gym is designated for toddlers to burn off some energy inside the gym. Generous residents have donated toddler specific toys which can be found inside the push button closet. All toddlers must always be accompanied by an adult as supervision is not provided by Village staff. All toys and equipment must be returned to their appropriate location when done. In the event Madison Schools are closed or are scheduled off, Toddler Open Gym will be reduced to 8:00a - 10:00a.



Music Together: Winter

Tuesdays, 01/09 - 3/12
Time: 9:00am - 9:45am Session 1
Time: 10:00am - 10:45am Session 2
Dailey Cabin
Fee: \$170.00
Ages: 0 - 5 years old
Instructor: Susan Cramer

Each Music Together Mixed-Age class is an active music making experience designed to teach the way young children learn - through play with the ones they love! Each child participates at his or her own level through singing, moving, chanting, listening, watching, and exploring musical instruments. Classes provide a variety of adult-child activities that are engaging and developmentally appropriate and offer new ways to play musically at home.

Join us this winter for the Bells collection! We'll be singing and dancing to Lukey's Boat, Mr. Rabbit, Obwisana, Trot Old Joe, and Splishing and Splashing, as well as many other favorites! This ten-week semester includes a beautifully illustrated songbook, a code to download the music collection, and access to Music Together's Family Music Zone. All classes are held in the Dailey Cabin. More information can be found at musictogetherwithsus.com.

Parks and Recreation (continued)

By: Curt Erickson, Recreation Director/Deputy Treasurer

Babysitter Certification

Saturday, 12/2

Time: 9:00a - 4:00p

Village Center 2nd Floor Training Room

Fee: \$110.00

Ages: 9 - 15

Min. 6/Max. 12

Become a capable, confident babysitter that families will want to hire. By enrolling in the babysitting class, you'll learn how to provide care to the kids in the neighborhood. From choosing age-appropriate activities, to keeping kids safe, handling a range of behaviors to building your babysitting business, this course can help you become an in-demand sitter who can handle virtually any situation.

This Red Cross class will not certify participants in CPR but will provide basic CPR and first aid training.

YEL! Chess

Tuesdays 1/9- 2/27

Time: 5:00p - 6:00p

Dailey Cabin

Fee: \$118.00

Ages: 5 - 12

Our winter session focuses on advanced beginner and intermediate concepts. The {YEL!} Teach It! Practice It! Play It!® method keeps chess students progressing through 60+ chess lessons and thousands of puzzles as well as guided games and in-class tournaments. Class fee includes ChessKid.com membership for the session.

Robotics

Wednesdays, 1/10- 2/14

Time: 4:45p - 5:45p

Dailey Cabin

Fee: \$92.00

Ages: 6 - 12

Build a bumble bee, frog, or design your own predator. Then program the bumble bee to fly and buzz, the frog to leap, and the predator to hunt. {YEL!}'s Teach It! Practice It! Play It!® classroom method emphasizes 21st Century Learning skills like STEM, teamwork, and problem solving. Sign up today! Visit YELKids.com for more information.

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Winterfest

Volunteers are needed for the 2024 Winterfest Event. We are seeking volunteers to run the Friday night Euchre event and a Co-Chair for the Saturday festivities. If interested, please reach out to Ellen Reyerson ereyerson@villageofmaplebluff.com for more information.

Bricktopia

Tuesdays 1/9- 2/13

Time: 4:45p - 5:45p

Beach House

Fee: \$86.00

Ages: 7 - 12

Do amusement parks make you smile? Make you scream? In this class, students will build a merry-go-round, design their own wicked ride, and learn about engineering and design basics using LEGO® Bricks. Sign up today to have a blast!

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Open Pickleball

Weekdays

Time: 11:00a - 1:00p

Village Center Gym

Open Pickleball returns in October. The Village has a limited supply of paddles and balls available in the gym. This is a drop-in program available to Key Fob members at no additional charge. Non-key fob members are required to pay a \$2.00 drop-in fee per day to participate. In the event Madison Schools, public or private, are off school Pickleball will be cancelled for the day.

*Fitness programs are being developed for adults. Challenges have occurred with availability and a shortage of instructors.



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